

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 TRSE-00 /197 W

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R 111035Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6999

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OUAGADOUGOU 1900

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: PERMANENT INTERSTATE COMMITTEE MEETING-

STATEMENTS OF OBSERVERS-SEPT 8, 1973

BRUSSELS FOR USEC, PARIS (WILLIAMS AND RAICHT); GENEVA

(FOR KLAIN); ROME (FODAG)

1. MORNING SESSION SECOND DAY OF PIC MEETING DEVOLED
TO STATEMENTS OF OBSERVERS ON PROPOSED PROGRAMS PREPARED BY
TECHNICIANS OF MEMBER STATES. TECHNICIANS' REPORT (OUAGA 1887
PROPOSED LIST OF OVER 300 PROJECTS TOTALLING DOLS 3 BILLION
WITHOUT PRIORITY OR CRITERIA FOR THEIR SELECTION OR
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DETAILS ON PROJECTS THEMSELVES. (THIS LATER CUT BY MINISTERS

TO ONE-THIRD.) POUCHING COPIES OF DOCUMENTS.

2. THEME OF MOST DONOR'S COMMENTS WAS TO GIVE CEREMONIAL PRAISE TO TECHNICIANS' WORK BUT INDICATE PROPOSED LIST WAS ONLY BEGINNING STEP. DONORS SPOKE OF NEED FOR COORDINATION AND MADE GENERAL, RATHER THAN SPECIFIC, PLEDGES OF SUPPORT. MAIN THEME OF MY SPEECH (LEXT REPORTED SEPTEL) WAS TO STRESS NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION TO MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION FROM NEXT CROP PLANTED IN NINE MONTHS SO THAT REPETITION OF THIS YEAR'S CATASTROPHE CAN BE AVOIDED. THIS THEME STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORD AND HAS BECOME IMPORTANT FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN WORK OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

3. HIGHLIGHTS ON MAJOR POINTS MADE AT THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

A. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF WEST GERMANY PROMISED CONTINUED AND INCREASED AID PRINCIPALLY IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

B. CANADA NOTED NEED FOR DONOR COORDINATION AIMED AT INTEGRATED APPROACH. RESULTS OF EXPERTS PROVIDED BEGINNING BUT LIST REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE WORK TO EXAMINE. SOME PROJECTS LISTED HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO DONORS THUS PROJECT LIST OBVIOUSLY REQUIRED REFINEMENT. MORE INTEGRATED PROGRAM SHOULD BE DEVELOPED JOINTLY SO PROGRAM COULD PROCEED MORE EFFICIENTLY.

C. GAMBIA'S DELEGATE SAID THOUGH HIS COUNTRY NOT TECHNICALLY IN SAHEL IT COULD NOT ESCAPE REGIONAL DIFFICULTIES. RAINFALL DECLINED BY 50 PERCENT THIS YEAR CAUSING GAMBIA'S FOOD DEFICIT AND LEADING GOVT TO SEEK FOOD ASSISTANCE. THANKS WERE GIVEN TO MALI FOR RELASING 1,000 TONS OF EMERGENCY SORGHUM TO GAMBIA. STRESS WAS PUT ON NEED TO AVOID DEPENDENCY ON NATURAL RAINFALL AND TO MOUNT PROJECTS WHICH WILL FREE FARMER FROM VAGARIES OF CLIMATE.

D. GOF DEL PUISSANT SAID TECHNICIANS LIST SEEMED TO CONFORM TO CERTAIN NEEDS AND PRESENTED AMBITIOUS PROGRAM REQUIRING STUDY AND FURTHER DEFINITION. FRANCE HAS SPECIFIC LINE
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ITEM ALLOCATION FOR THE SAHEL IN THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION BUDGET BUT AMOUNT WAS NOT GIVEN. EMERGENCY PROBLEMS APPEARED TO FRANCE TO BE WELL ON THE WAY TO BEING SOLVED BUT SITUATION REQUIRES MONITORING.

E. GHANA PRAISED TECHNICIAN'S WORK AND EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR SAHEL STATES TO CONTINUE TO SUPPLY GHANA WITH LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTION. MULTIPLE USES OF WATER RESOURCES, SUCH AS

VOLTA RIVER, COULD BE PROMOTED BASED ON SHARING BY STATES. MORE INVESTIGATION NEEDS TO BE MADE OF GROUND AND SURFACE WATER RESOURCES IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE VOLTA RIVER. GHANA PLEDGED COOPERATION WITH SAHEL STATES.

F. WEST AFRICA RICE DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. (WARDA) JACQUES DIOUF PLEDGED HIS ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTANCE IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND STRESSED NEDD TO INCREASE TRAINING AND RESEARCH.

G. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA'S DELEGATE MADE FRANK-EST CRITICISM OF EXPERT'S WORK OBSERVING PROPOSALS MIXED TOGETHER SHORT-MEDIUM AND LONG TERM WITH INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION GIVEN TO PRIORITIES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY. PROPOSALS SHOULD BE REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH NEEDED TO CONSIDER SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY CREATING SAHELIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE. ECOLOGICAL DETERIORATION OF ENVIRONMENT IS EFFECT, NOT A CAUSE, AND PROBLEM IS BASICALLY RESULT OF GROWING IMBALANCE BETWEEN RATE OF GROWTH OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL POPULATION AND DEVELOPED LAND CAPACITY.

H. CARITAS REPORTED IT COMMITTED SUM OF DOLS 3.5 MILLION FOR SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF.

I. FAO DEL MENSAH SPOKE OF FAO SPONSORED TEAM SCHEDULED TO EVALUATE FOOD NEEDS IN AREA. HE FELT WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO PRE-POSITION STOCKS PARTICULARLY IN ISOLATED AREAS TO AVERT REPEAT OF THIS YEAR'S PROBLEM. ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PROJECTS WITH IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON SOLVING IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT. MASS MEDIA TECHNIQUES WHOULD BE EMPLOYED TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT CHANGES IN NOMADIC PATTERNS.

J. LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION TONWE REMINDED MINISTERS
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THAT AREA ALREADY HAS VIABLE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH BASIC PROBLEM OF DEVELOPMENT IN ZONE. SINCE WATER RESOURCES CRUCIAL TO REVERSING CONDITIONS OF DROUGHT LAKE AND RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS SHOULD PLAY VITAL ROLE. OMVS, NRC AND LCBC CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS SIX SAHEL STATES AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH TO LESSER DEGREE SUFFER EFFECTS OF DROUGHT. PLANS ALREADY DEVELOPED BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

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AS EXAMPLE CITED FAO STUDY INDICATING

LAKE CHAD COULD PROVIDE ENOUGH WATER TO IRRIGATE

260,000 HECTARES. WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT THIS REGION

COULD BE INCREASED TO 700,000 HECTARES AND PRODUCE 2 CROPS

PER YEAR. REGION COULD PRODUCE 7 MILLION TONS OF RICE PER

YEAR SOLVING SAHEL FOOD DEFICIT AND PROVIDE EXPORT POTENTIAL.

K. IBRD DEL CONGRATULATED EXPERTS, AGREEING WITH CONCLUSIONS,

BUT STRESSED EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO AVOID DUPLICATION

AND OVERLAPPING OF PROJECTS. CRITERIA MUST BE ESTABLISHED

SO DONORS CAN CHOOSE PROJECTS. IBRD ALLOCATED DOLS 12 MILLION

FOR SAHEL REGION AND ONCHOCERCIASIS WOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL IBRD

ATTENTION.

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L. UN UNDERSEC MORSE SAID RESOLUTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL COMMITTED COUNTRIES TO A COORDINATED APPROACH. BASED ON PETION 6 SAHEL COUNTRIES DROUGHT WOULD BE PLACED ON AGENDA 28TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. COMPUTERIZED INVENTORY OF ON-GOING, COMPLETED AND PROPOSED PROJECTS IN SAHEL BEING COMPILED BY UN. UN PLANS OPEN SPECIAL OFFICE IN OUAGADOUGOU TO COORDINATE WITH PIC. MORSE STRESSED THAT SAHEL'S PROBLEMS ARE TOO BIG FOR ANY ONE DONOR SO COORDINATED APPROACH MARSHALLING RESOURCES OF MANY DONORS IS REQUIRED.

M. FED DEL OUTLINED AID HIS ORGANIZATION HAS PROVIDED: 8.5 MILLION CFA IN FOOD AND 5 MILLION CFA IN NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO COMMENTED SOME PROJECTS LISTED ALREADY HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO FED AND PLEDGED CONTINUED SUPPORT.

4. OTHER SPEECHES WERE MADE BY WFP, UNICEF, WHO CMCF, AFDB AND RELIGIOUS RELIEF AGENCIES. USSR ATTENDED MEETING BUT DID NOT SPEAK.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS ADHERED TO DIPLOMATIC NICETIES IN THEIR REVIEW OF TECNICIANS' REPORT ALL POTENTIAL DONORS WERE CONCERNED BY UNCOORDINATED, LENGTHY AND COSTLY LIST OF PROJECTS PRESENTED. THIS REPOSE APPEARED TO HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT ON MINISTERS. I CHOSE NOT TO DISCUSS TECHNICIANS' PROPOSALS BUT RATHER STRESSED POSITIVE ROLE US HAS PLAYED IN PAST AND SOUGHT TO PLAY IN FULURE. I MADE THE POINT THAT COMBINED EFFORTS OF DONOR COMMUNITY AND SAHELIAN STATES HAD AVERTED MASS FAMINE TO DATE BUT THAT RELIEF FOOD WOULD BE NEEDED FOR NEXT 12-15 MONTHS AND THAT PRIORITY ACTIONS HAD TO ADDRESS IMPORTANCE OF EARLY PRODUCTION AND PARTICULARLY PERIOD BEFORE SLART OF NEXT PLANTING SEASON. US WAS PREPARED TO JOIN WITH OTHERS IN MOUNTING FLEXIBLE RECOVERY PROJECTS WHICH WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED AND WOULD HELP COUNTRIES TO WARD OFF THREAT CONTINUED HARDSHIP. US ALSO WOULD CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN MIDDLE AND LONG TERM PLANNING AND WOULD PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING OF PROJECTS AS THEY BECOME MORE FULLY DEVELOPJD. PRIVATELY WE TOLD MINISTERS THAT LACK OF PRIORITIES IN TECHNICIANS REPORT WAS GREAT DEFICIENCY.BULLEN

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